

**CLAIMS**

1. Device for processing an echo between at least two communication devices coupled to each other by a communication network to attenuate, in a signal picked up by a communication device having at least one microphone, the components of a signal broadcasted by at least one loudspeaker on at least one other communication device,

the echo processing device comprising:

a receiver for receiving, via coupling with at least one other device, information representing at least one signal broadcast by at least one loudspeaker on another communication device,

a signal processing arrangement for modifying the signal picked up by the communication device from information representing the broadcasted signal and for weighting the broadcasted signal by a coefficient representing coupling between a loudspeaker of the at least one other communication device from the microphone of the communication device.

2. Echo processing device according to claim 1, wherein the communication device includes the echo processing device.

3. Echo processing device according to claim 2, further including a controller for controlling echo between at least one of the loudspeakers and at least one microphone of the communication device.

4. Echo processing device according to claim 1 wherein the information received representing at least one broadcasted signal from at least one other communication device was previously weighted by a coefficient representing the coupling between a loudspeaker of the said at least one other communication device and the microphone of the communication device.

5. Echo processing device according to claim 4, wherein the signal processing arrangement for modifying the picked up signal is arranged to modify the picked up signal according to the weighted broadcasted signal of at least one other communication device in the reference echo control signal of the communication device.

6. Device for processing an echo between at least two communication devices coupled to each other by a telecommunication network to attenuate, in a signal picked up by another communication device having at least one microphone, the components of a signal broadcasted by at least one communication device including at least one loudspeaker of at least one communication device,

the echo processing device comprising:

a receiver for obtaining information representing the signal broadcasted by the communication device,

a signal processing arrangement for transferring the information obtained via coupling with at least the other communication device.

7. Echo processing device according to claim 6, wherein the echo processing device also comprises circuitry for

obtaining information representing the coupling between at least one loudspeaker of the said at least one communication device and the microphone of the other communication device.

8. Echo processing device according to claim 7, wherein the signal processing arrangement is arranged for weighting the information representing the broadcasted signal of the communication device by coefficients associated with information representing the couplings between at least one loudspeaker of the said at least one communication device and the microphone of the other communication device.

9. Echo processing device according to claim 8, wherein the communication device comprises a plurality of loudspeakers coupled with the at least one communication device so that (a) the signals reproduced by each loudspeaker of the at least one communication device are weighted by respective coefficients representing the couplings between each loudspeaker of the communication device and the microphone of the other communication device and (b) the weighted signals are added.

10. Echo processing device according to claim 6, wherein the circuitry is arranged for establishing the number of other communication devices and for establishing the number of loudspeakers of the other communication devices.

11. Echo processing device according to claim 10, wherein the echo processing device also comprises:

a generator for generating at least one predetermined audible signal,

a receiver for receiving, by means of coupling with at least one other device, information representing the reception of the audible signal by at least one other device,

the signal processing arrangement being arranged for determining the coupling between a loudspeaker of the said communication device and the microphone of at least one other communication device.

12. Method of processing an echo between at least two communication devices coupled to each other by a telecommunication network to attenuate, in a signal picked up by a communication device having at least one microphone, the components of a signal broadcast by at least one loudspeaker of another communication device, the echo processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving from at least one other device information representing at least one signal broadcast by at least one loudspeaker of at least one other communication device,

modifying the signal picked up by the communication device according to the information representing the broadcasted signal by weighting the broadcast signal by a coefficient representing the coupling between a loudspeaker of the said at least one other communication device and the microphone of the communication device.

13. Echo processing method according to claim 12, wherein the received information representing at least one broadcast signal of at least one other communication device is weighted by a coefficient representing the coupling between a loudspeaker of the at least one other communication device and the microphone of the communication device.

14. Echo processing method according to claim 13, wherein the picked up weighted signal is taken into account in a reference echo control signal of the communication device.

15. Method of processing an echo between at least two communication devices coupled by a telecommunication network in order to attenuate, in a signal picked up by another communication device including at least one microphone, the components of a signal broadcast by at least one communication device including at least one loudspeaker, the echo processing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information representing the signal broadcast by the communication device, and

transferring, by use of a coupling with at least the other device, the information obtained.

16. Echo processing method according to claim 15, wherein the method also comprises obtaining information representing the coupling between at least one loudspeaker of the at least one communication device and the microphone of the other communication device.

17. Echo processing method according to claim 16, wherein the echo processing method also comprises weighting the information representing the broadcast signal of the communication device by coefficients associated with the information representing the couplings between at least one loudspeaker of said at least one communication device and the microphone of the other communication device.

18. Echo processing method according to claim 16, wherein (a) the communication device comprises a plurality of loudspeakers, and (b) the signals reproduced by each loudspeaker of the said at least one communication device are weighted by respective coefficients representing the coupling between each loudspeaker of the communication device and the microphone of the other communication device, and (c) the weighted signals are added.

19. Echo processing method according to claim 15, wherein the echo processing method also comprises determining the number of other communication devices and determining the number of loudspeakers of the other communication devices.

20. Echo processing method according to claim 19, wherein the echo processing method also comprises:

generating at least one predetermined audible signal,

receiving, via coupling with at least one other device, information representing the reception of the audible signal by the at least one other device, and

determining the coupling between the loudspeaker of the said communication device and the microphone of at least one other communication device.

21. An information medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to perform the steps of claim 12.

22. An information medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to perform the steps of claim 15.